

Informational Update: Sustained Assessment Process

NCADAC Meeting
November 16-17, 2011

John Hall, DoD, Workgroup Co-Chair
Maria Blair, American Cancer Society,
Workgroup Co-Chair

Objectives

- Have NCADAC review and approve workgroup scope and approach (white paper)
- Highlight sustained assessment components, timelines, and workgroup discussion themes

Components of a Sustained Assessment

- **Achieve Scientific Integration**—Demand, integrate, analyze, and evaluate emerging scientific understanding of the integrated Earth system and its implications, including integration of natural and social sciences, and identify critical gaps and limitations in scientific understanding.
- **Foster Partnerships and Engagement**—Ensure broad, sustained participation of stakeholders across regions and sectors.
- **Build Ongoing Capacity**—Strengthen and evolve ongoing capacity to conduct assessments with accessible, transparent, and consistent processes.
- **Inform Responses**—Inform responses to global change (both mitigation and adaptation) with accurate, authoritative, and timely information that is accessible to multiple audiences in multiple formats. This includes responding to all levels of stakeholders, from Congress to senior federal officials to local communities.

Components of a Sustained Assessment

- **Enhance Information Access**—Develop and maintain a web-based Assessment information storage, access, and retrieval system that facilitates easy access to actionable information for those that need it and provides up-to-date information on a continuous basis.
- **Establish Indicators**—Build or leverage existing data, observations, model output, and indicator network/systems to obtain information on the status and trends of global change impacts and vulnerabilities, including the capacity of the nation to respond and adapt to such changes.
- **Evaluate Progress**—Ensure ongoing evaluation of assessment processes and products, using specific criteria for determining success, and incorporate the findings into an adaptive response for systemic improvement.
- **Ensure Adequate Capacity and Resources**—Ensure central coordination functions for the Assessment are adequately resourced to facilitate ongoing progress and timely production of assessment products. Ensure adequate scientific and non-scientific capacity at multiple levels, from local to regional, to support on-going processes and activities.

Chapter: The NCA Long-Term Process

– Vision and Future Deliverables

- Identify and recruit the other members of the Sustained Assessments Workgroup (by October 28, 2011). Hold initial workgroup meeting November 15, 2011.
- Provide guidance to the applicable Assessment teams as to how to provide input to the chapter (by November 15, 2011).
- Periodically vet with the full NCADAC the vision for this chapter and progress towards gathering information (initially accomplish at the November 16–17, 2011 NCDAC meeting).
- Establish an author team to collate the input and write the chapter (by November 15, 2011). Author team members likely will be a subset of Workgroup members.
- Coordinate with critical workgroups: Engagement, Communications and Evaluation; Indicators; Scenarios; Agenda for Climate Science; and Climate Change Science using the Convening Lead Author meeting, January 16-18, 2012, as one opportunity.
- Author team collates information and drafts the chapter (gather all information by March 1, 2012 and produce draft chapter by April 30, 2012). An initial set of priority activities that can be accomplished before emphasis shifts to development of the 2017 Assessment Report and their estimated timeline for completion is anticipated to be an integral part of this chapter.
- Submit review chapter no later than June 1, 2012.

Develop a Workplan for the Sustained Assessment Process

- Work with the other members of the NCADAC, INCATF/WG, and NCA staff in developing options and criteria for selecting ongoing priorities of the sustained assessment (by March 1, 2012).
- Identify those priorities that need to be sustained or initiated while the 2013 Assessment Report is still in development and assist the preceding entities in identifying roles and responsibilities for accomplishing these priorities (by May 31, 2012).
- Based on the options and criteria developed in Step 1, the author team will identify draft initial priorities that will be accomplished subsequent to the 2013 Assessment (by April 30, 2012).
- The author team will work with the members of the NCADAC, INCATF/WG, and NCA staff to finalize the activities, estimated timelines for completion, and roles and responsibilities, as well as any anticipated partnerships, for ensuring accomplishment for the final list of priorities and also respond to all public, agency, and NRC comment on the priorities.

Discussion Themes

- Establish a bold, inspirational, and transformative vision for the sustained assessment
- Emphasize the on-going process and the milestones, activities, and processes that support it– moving beyond the report
- Scope: broader than the Federal government
- Maintain and manage the networks and “fields” created by the assessment: create capacity and constituency
- Develop the business case, scientific community engagement rationale, scientific benefits, and stakeholder benefits of a sustained assessment